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Comissão Directiva da FRETILIN • Comando das FALINTIL • Resistência Nacional Estudantil de Timor Leste • RENETIL

MEMO

To: ALL **From:** JRH

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Subject: **Update on East Timor at UNCHR**

Here is another summary and analysis to keep you abreast of the unfolding events and activities in the Commission on Human Rights regarding East Timor:

1. The press statement issued exposing Australia's lobby on East Timor has had its intended effect. The Australian delegation here has been very embarrassed and upset to the point of panic as it sees its collaboration with Indonesia publicly exposed.

2. However, while denying the charges I made against them, the Australian delegation has in fact escalated its efforts to undermine the European Community draft resolution on East Timor.

3. Australian diplomats have in fact accused Portugal of discourtesy and of not having consulted with Australia in advance regarding the text of the resolution.

4. In fact, the Australian delegation is angry, not because it has not been consulted (obviously Portugal could not have consulted with Australia since they are in opposing camps) but because Portugal has anticipated Australia's schemes and outmanouvered the Australian delegation.

Address:

5. At this moment, Australia is completely alone amoung the Western countries in not supporting the current European draft.

6. Australia is still lobbying actively, leading many NGO's and governments to wonder why Australia takes such an active and strong stand against a resolution which does not refer to Australia - as if the current EC draft was a condemnation of Australia and not Indonesia.

7. The EC draft is now co-sponsored by the Nordic countries, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Chile, Angola, Cape Verde, Mozambique and Sao Tome. We expect several more European and South American countries to co-sponsor it.

8. There are indications that Canada will vote in favour of the draft with the possibility of co-sponsorship, while the US Mission in Geneva has recommended to the State Department in Washington that the US join the list of co-sponsors of the draft. However, I remain extremely sceptical regarding the State Department's possible change of heart on East Timor - it would require heavenly intervention. On a more pragmatic note, American friends in Washington might be able to impress upon the State Department that, to be credible, the US has to be consistent in its approach to human rights issues.

9. Under Item 12, a wide range of NGO's and governments have made references to East Timor, the most comprehensive being the statement by Portugal on behalf of the EC and by Angola on behalf of the portuguese-speaking African countries.

10. Japan is also actively lobbying some South American countries, pushing for a weak consensus decision by the President, which is opposed by us.

11. Australia must be denounced in most blunt form (see new press release on Australia - attached).

12. Friends in Japan must also expose Japanese delegation activities in Geneva (see press release on Japan for more details).

13. Finally, Madame Danielle Miterrand spoke yesterday in the CHR in her capacity as President of "Fondation France Liberté" and devoted one third of her statement to East Timor. It was a politically strong speech and quite moving. Enormous impact.